DARK HORSE COMICS

#4

THE GOON™

NOTHIN' BUT MISERY

by Eric Powell

THE GOON IN NOTHIN' BUT MISERY

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
ERIC POWELL

COLORS BY
ERIC and ROBIN POWELL

DARK HORSE BOOKS®
MILWAUKIE

First edition:
editors SCOTT ALLIE & MATT DRYER

Second edition:
editor SCOTT ALLIE
assistant editor BRENDAN WRIGHT

designer AMY ARENDTS

president & publisher MIKE RICHARDSON

Neil Hankerson *executive vice president* • Tom Weddle *chief financial officer* • Randy Stradley *vice president of publishing* • Michael Martens *vice president of business development* • Anita Nelson *vice president of business affairs* • Micha Hershman *vice president of marketing* • David Scroggy *vice president of product development* • Dale LaFountain *vice president of information technology* • Darlene Vogel *director of purchasing* • Ken Lizzi *general counsel* • Davey Estrada *editorial director* • Scott Allie *senior managing editor* • Chris Warner *senior books editor* • Diana Schutz *executive editor* • Cary Grazzini *director of design and production* • Lia Ribacchi *art director* • Cara Niece *director of scheduling*

THE GOON™: NOTHIN' BUT MISERY

The Goon™ & © 2011 Eric Powell. All rights reserved. Dark Horse Books® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living, dead, or undead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

This volume collects issues #1–#4 of *The Goon* and *The Goon Color Special*, originally published by Albatross Exploding Funny Books, as well as the short story "Die, Fish, Die!" originally published in the final issue of *Dark Horse Presents*. Yes, after setting creative milestones with the likes of Chadwick and Miller, *DHP*, possibly the greatest anthology comic of all time, ran a Goon story by Eric Powell, and was subsequently canceled.

Published by
Dark Horse Books
A division of
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

DarkHorse.com

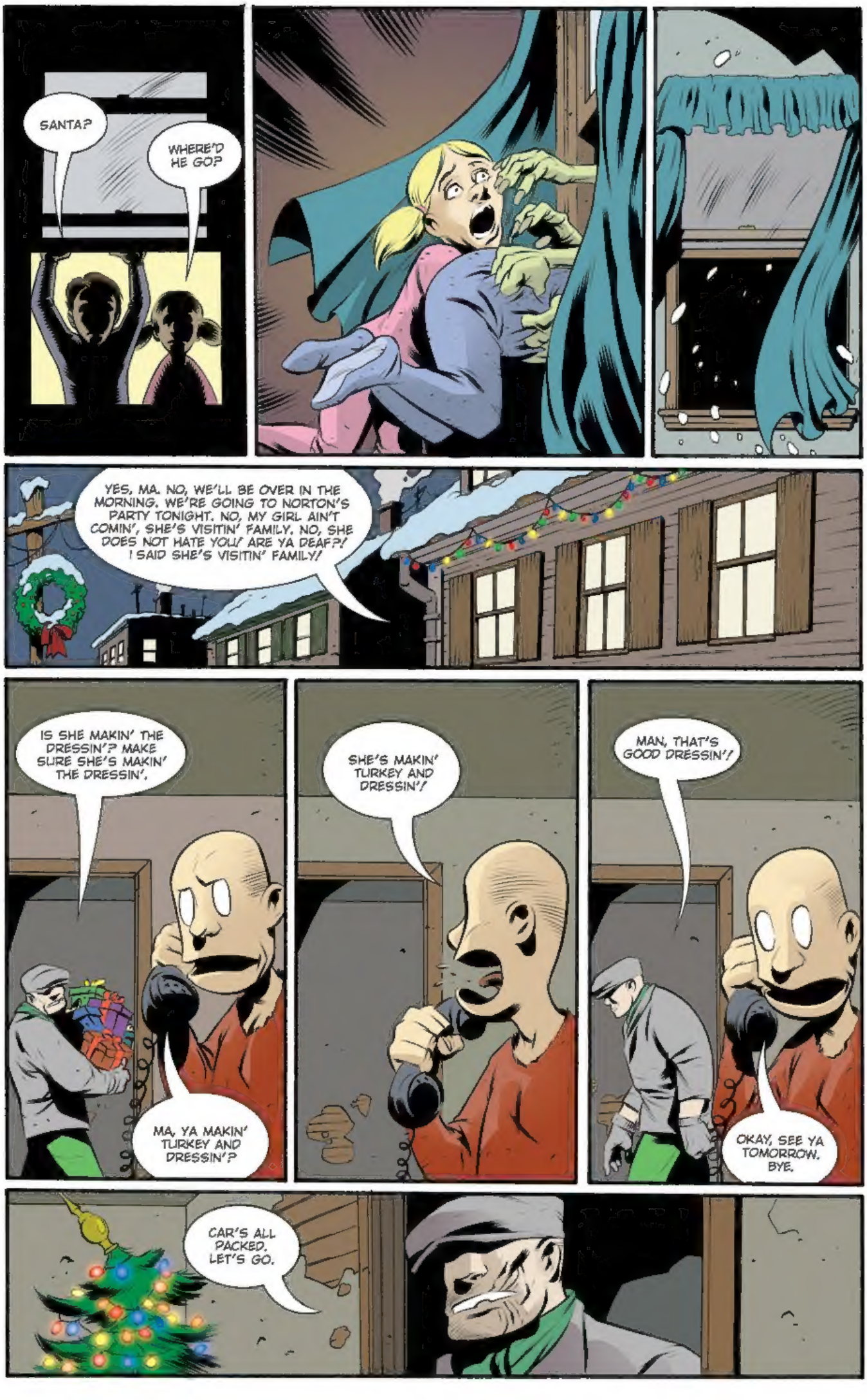
To find a comics shop in your area,
call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at (888) 266-4226.

First edition: July 2003
Second edition: June 2011
ISBN 978-1-59582-624-4

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed at Midas Printing International, Ltd., Huizhou, China

CHRISTMAS EVE.
I'M GETTING A LITTLE SUSIE SUE DOLL!
I'M GETTING NUCLAR THE EVIL ROBOT ACTION FIGURE WITH AN EXPLODABLE FACE!
I'M GETTING A PONY! A PINK ONE!
I'M GETTING A SHOTGUN AND A CANDY BAR!
SCRITCH!
SCRATCH!
SCRITCH!
SCRITCH!
SCRATCH!
GASP! IT'S HIM!
QUICK, OPEN THE WINDOW! MY PONY'S GOING TO FREEZE TO DEATH!


SANTA?
WHERE'D HE GO?
YES, MA. NO, WE'LL BE OVER IN THE MORNING. WE'RE GOING TO NORTON'S PARTY TONIGHT. NO, MY GIRL AIN'T COMIN', SHE'S VISITIN' FAMILY. NO, SHE DOES NOT HATE YOU! ARE YA DEAF?! I SAID SHE'S VISITIN' FAMILY!
IS SHE MAKIN' THE DRESSIN'? MAKE SURE SHE'S MAKIN' THE DRESSIN'.
MA, YA MAKIN' TURKEY AND DRESSIN'?
SHE'S MAKIN' TURKEY AND DRESSIN'!
MAN, THAT'S GOOD DRESSIN'!
OKAY, SEE YA TOMORROW. BYE.
CAR'S ALL PACKED. LET'S GO.

HEY, DID YOU REMEMBER TO PACK THAT FRUIT-CAKE I'M GIVIN' OLD LADY LAVEALIX?
YEAH, I THINK SO.
GOOD! I PUT A NAIL IN IT. LEARN HER TA FAIL ME IN THE THIRD GRADE!
YA KNOW WHAT I LOVE ABOUT THIS TIME A YEAR, FRANKY?
THE FESTIVE DECORATIN'?
NOPE.
THE SENSE OF GOOD-WILL GOIN' THROUGH THE PLACE?
NOPE.
WELL, WHAT THEN?
MMM MMF MLUH!
ALL THE STINKIN' ZOMBIES IS FROZEN TO THE STREET!
SMASH!

BWAH! HA! HA! HA!
MUF! MFU! WLILIH!
IT'S A ROTTEN LOT IN LIFE WE BEEN DEALT, BERT!
EVERYONE ALL SITTIN' COZY IN THEM NICE WARM HOUSES, EATIN' TURKEY WITH ALL THE FIXIN'S! WHAT WE GOT... A BARREL! I WISH I WAS DEAD!
HUH?
TAP TAP TAP
GUWAH!
I TAKE IT ALL BACK! I LOVE MY BARREL!
JOY TO THE WORLD!
AHHH!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
JOSEPH! JOSEPH!
HEE HAAW!
HAVE SOME OF MY SPECIAL EGGNOG!
NO THANKS. THE LAST TIME I DRANK THAT STUFF I WENT BLIND FOR AN HOUR AND ALL MY BODY HAIR FELL OUT.
HEY, BRAINLESS, DON'T YOU KNOW WHERE COCONUTS COME FROM?!
GIMME ANOTHER.
I'M GONNA HAVE ME A COUPLE OF HAREMS... MAYBE EVEN THREE OR FOUR WIVES!
BERT... ERNIE... DONTCHA KNOW ME?!
HEY, FRANKY, LOOK! I GOT AN OFFICIAL CAPTAIN WEIRDO JUNIOR SPACEMAN HELMET FOR CHRISTMAS! AIN'T IT THE BEE'S KNEES?!
THAT'S IT! OUT YOU TWO PIXIES GO, THROUGH THE WINDA OR OUT THE DOOR!
I'LL TRADE YA A PIG HEAD FOR IT.
SLAP!
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT PIG HEAD.
THAT DON'T CONCERN YOU! YOU TRADIN' OR NOT?!
WELL, THAT IS A MIGHTY FINE PIG HEAD.

HI THERE, GOON.
HEY, MIRNA, THAT'S SOME DRESS.
THIS OLD THING? I ONLY WEAR THIS WHEN I DON'T CARE HOW I LOOK.
I WISH I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS... HOT DOG!
WHERE'S YOUR BROTHER SKINNY? I GOT HIM A BUCK KNIFE.
OH, HE'S AROUND... BUT DIDN'T YOU GET ANYTHING FOR ME?
IT'S THE PINK ONE WITH THE BLUE BOW. IT'S A TOASTER.
OH, HOW SWEET.
HELP ME DOWN?
HELP YA DOWN?!
WELL, I'VE GOT YOUR PRESENT RIGHT HERE.
WHAT'S THAT... WEEDS?
NO, IT'S MISTLETOE. AND IT'S NOT YOUR PRESENT.
THIS IS.
MY BABIES! HELP ME!

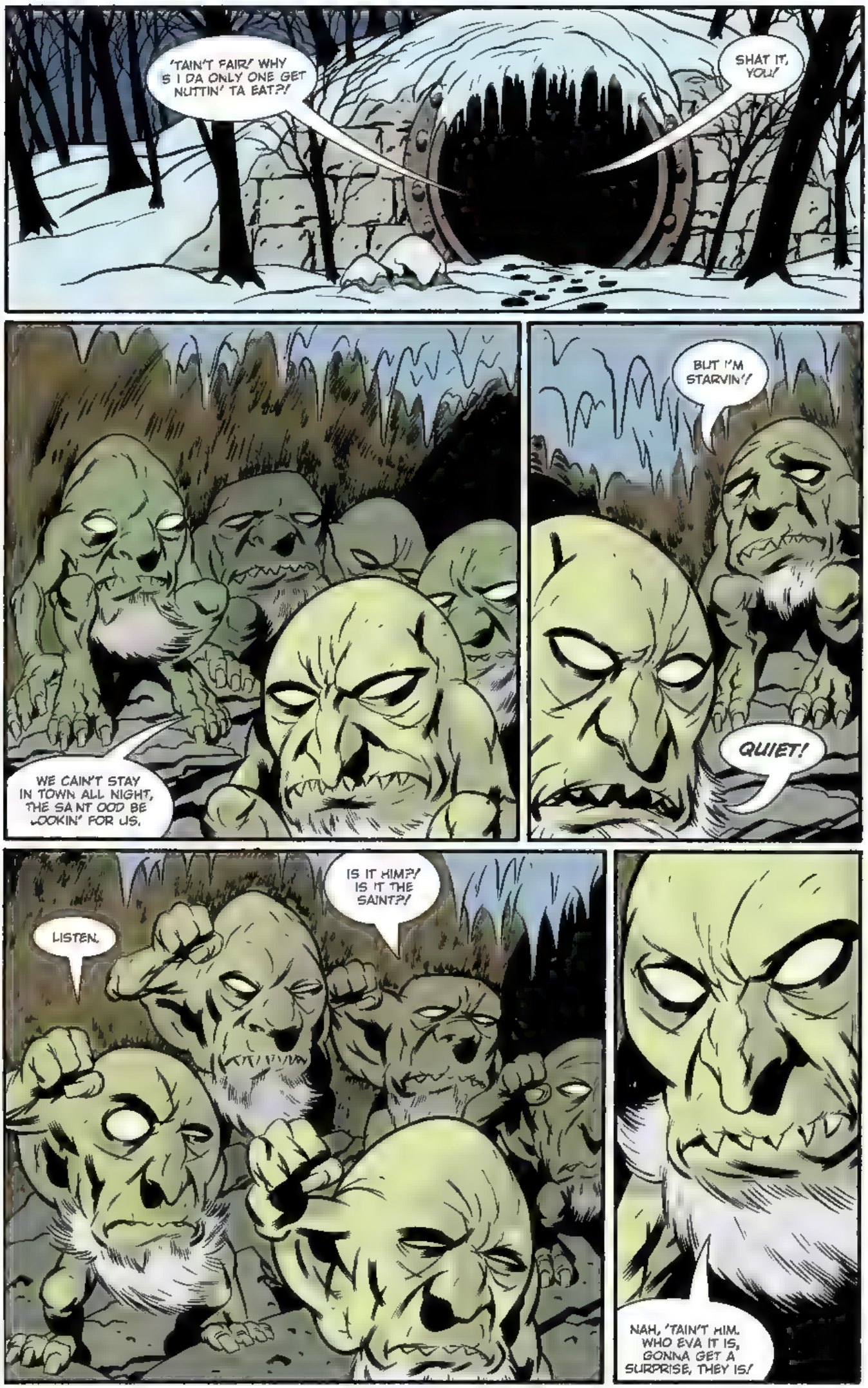
GOON, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! SOMEONE... SOMETHING HAS TAKEN MY CHILDREN... TOOK THEM OUT THE WINDOW!
PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU!
DOES THAT BEAR BELONG TO THE KIDS?
YES.
WHERE'S THAT WEREWOLF MERLE?
OVER THERE, EATIN' PEANUT BRITTLE AND FUDGE.
HEY, MERLE!
GET OVER HERE AND TAKE A SNIFF OF THIS! I GOT WORK FOR YOU, BOY!

HEY, GOON, WHY YOU GIVIN' THAT MIRNA DAME THE COLD SHOULDER?
I LOOK LIKE A SHAVED GORILLA WITH TWENTY POUNDS OF GROUND BEEF FOR A HEAD.
NO DAME THAT LOOKS LIKE THAT COULD BE INTO ME UNLESS SHE WANTED SOMETH N'. I LEARNED THAT A LONG TIME AGO.
WHO CARES! USE 'EM AND THROW 'EM AWAY! THAT'S WHAT I DO!
YOU AIN'T BEEN OUT WITH A WOMAN SINCE OLD LADY KRINSHAW HAD THAT OPERATION TO GET HER SIGHT BACK!
SNIFF
I'M SO LONELY.

CONTINUED...

"JOHNNY WOODWARD'S CLASSIC ***THE ATOMIC RAGE*** IS THE BOOK THAT MADE ME WANT TO DRAW COMICS."

–ERIC POWELL


'TAIN'T FAIR! WHY IS I DA ONLY ONE GET NUTTIN' TA EAT?!
SHAT IT, YOU!
WE CAIN'T STAY IN TOWN ALL NIGHT, THE SAINT OOD BE LOOKIN' FOR US.
BUT I'M STARVIN'!
QUIET!
LISTEN.
IS IT HIM?! IS IT THE SAINT?!
NAH, 'TAIN'T HIM. WHO EVA IT IS, GONNA GET A SURPRISE, THEY IS!

I SMELL COCOA AND VAPORUB... WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, BOYS!
YEP, THERE'S A TRAIL.
YEAH, BUT WHAT MADE IT?
GHARG!
BLAH!
YARG!

WHAT'S THIS, ATTACK OF THE DEFORMED CIRCUS MIDGETS?!
AHHH!
YOU SHOULDN'T 'VE SAID THAT.
WHAT DID I DO?
HE HAS AN UNNATURAL PHOBIA OF MIDGET HANDS.
DON'T TOUCH! DON'T TOUCH! SQUASHY LITTLE HANDS, DON'T TOUCH!
WATCH IT! THEY'RE RABID!
HEY, GET OFF ME!

EAT KIDS ON CHRISTMAS EVE IN MY TOWN, WILL YA?!
CRUNCH!
GWAAH!
MULURF! MMR FMR!
ERR! GET OFF ME!

AT LAST!
YOUR TURN TA EAT, RORY!
OOOW!
SHWAKRAK!
SNAG!
Yoink!
HUH?

BACK TO WORK!

IT'S THE SAINT!
DON'T WANT TA MAKE TOYS NO MORE!
NO!
RUN FOR IT!

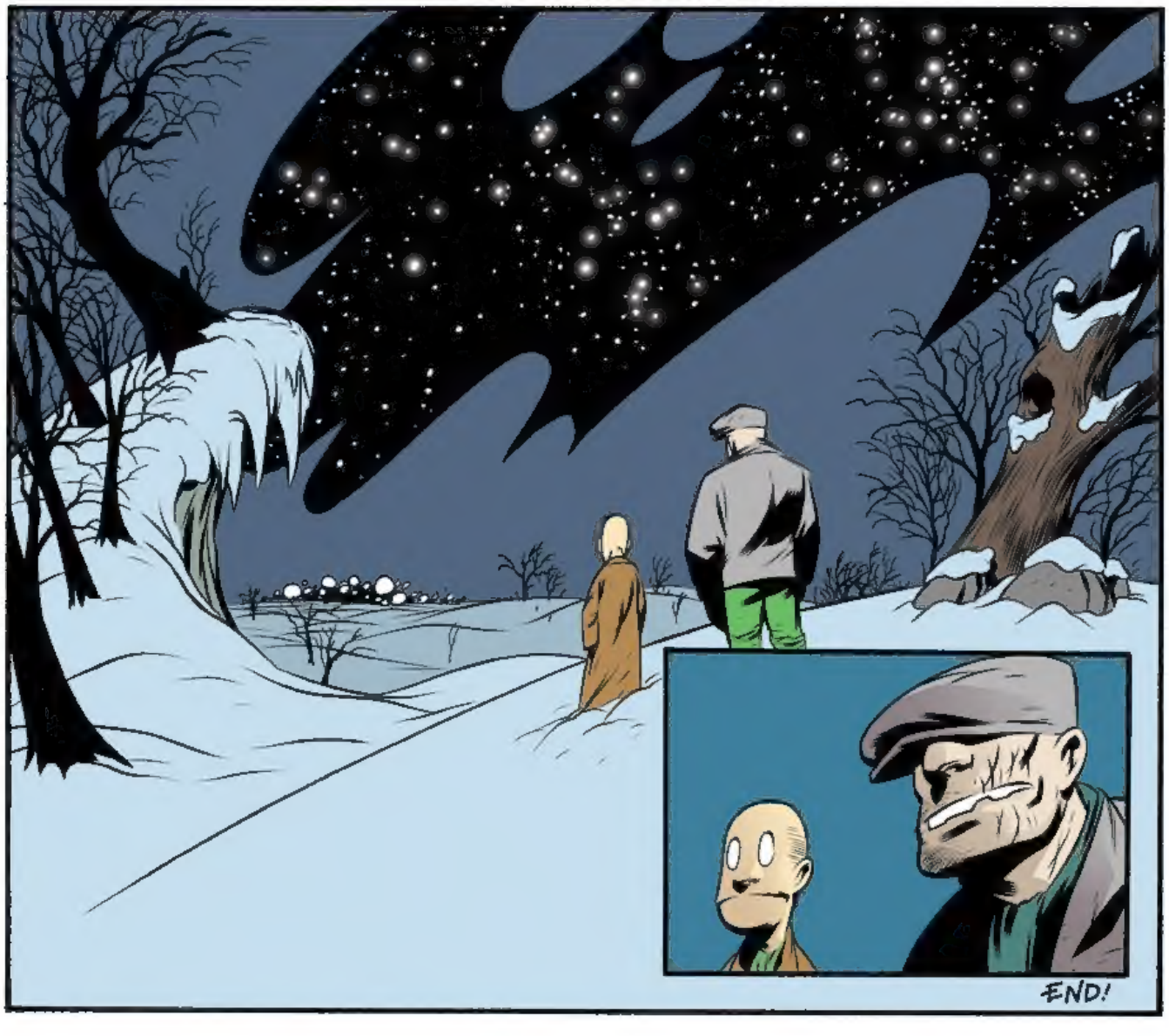
STOP!
INTO THE BAG... NOW!
Y-Y-YES, SIR.
'SCUSE ME, BUT THESE LITTLE FREAKS ATE A COUPLE OF KIDS! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL THEIR MOTHER?!
YOU WHAT?!
PLEASE FORGIVE US! PLEASE DON'T STRETCH US ON THE RACK AND GRIND SHARDS OF BROKEN GLASS INTO OUR EYES!
DON'T FEAR, THEIR DIGESTIVE SYSTEMS ARE VERY SLOW.
RATTLE! RATTLE! RATTLE!
BLAW!

M-MOMMY... THE TEETH, MOMMY... SO MANY TEETH.
DON'T WORRY, KID. A COUPLE OF YEARS OF THERAPY, AND YOU'LL BE RIGHT AS RAIN.
BLAR!
LARCH!
YARK!
WE DON'T KNOW THEM.
OH! CAN WE EAT THEM AGAIN THEN, O JOLLY ONE?
NO! IN THE BAG!
HEY, IF YOU EXIST, HOW COME YOU NEVER BROUGHT ME NUTHIN'?!
BECAUSE YOU'RE A ROTTEN LITTLE [redacted], THAT'S WHY!
FAIR ENOUGH.

THANK YOU.
DON'T MENTION IT.
HEY, MERLE!
ARE THEY GONE?

GET THESE PEOPLE TO NORTON'S ON THE DOUBLE.
YOUR MOM'S THERE WAITIN' FOR YA, KIDS.
DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT GIVE US SOME FOOD THERE?
IT'S A PARTY, GUY. THEY GOT PIES, CAKES, EGGNOG, AND A TRAY OF HAM SANDWICHES SIX FEET HIGH!

YA HEAR THAT? WE'RE GONNA EAT TONIGHT!


END!

EMPIRE